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ABSTRACT

An in-depth survey of women's colleges (27 independent private, 20 church-related, and two public) sought information in such areas as curriculum, continuing education, athletics, career support services, and the presence of women in teaching, administrative, and board positions. The percentage of women faculty members at women's colleges is two and one-half times the national average for all institutions of higher education, and the percentage of women with the rank of full professor in the women's colleges is more than four times the national average. Other key findings are that: (1) financial aid for the continuing education student is available at nearly 75 percent of the colleges; (2) more than 50 percent of the responding colleges indicate their fastest growing major to be Business Administration, Biology, Economics, or Nursing; (3) 96 percent of the responding colleges have courses on women in their curriculum; and (4) there is intercollegiate athletic competition at more than 90 percent of the responding colleges, with an average of five intercollegiate sports at each college. Athletic scholarships are offered by 12 percent. (LBH)

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WOMEN'S COLLEGE COALITION

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PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN PROFESSORS IS FOUR TIMES
NATIONAL AVERAGE IN WOMEN's COLLEGE SURVEY

The percentage of women faculty members at women's colleges is 2 1/2 times the national average for all institutions of higher education. At the top of the academic ranks, the comparison is more striking: the percentage of women with the rank of full professor in the women's colleges is more than four times the national average.

Those are two of the findings from an in-depth survey of women's colleges released today by the Women's College Coalition. The Coalition's member-college survey was taken during December 1975 and January 1976, with a questionnaire distributed to 72 colleges nationwide.

Forty-seven private colleges -- 27 independent and 20 church related -- and two public ones responded to the survey, for a total response group of 49. Information was sought in such areas as curriculum, continuing education, athletics, career support services, and the presence of women in teaching, administrative and Board positions.

Other key findings from the survey are these:

* Financial aid for the "older woman" or continuing education student is available at nearly three-quarters of the colleges. And at half of the colleges, that aid is available to continuing education students who are part-time.

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- more -

* More than half of the responding colleges indicate their fastest growing major to be in one of these four career-related fields: Business Administration, Biology, Economics, or Nursing.
* 96% of the responding colleges have courses on women in their curriculum.
* There is intercollegiate athletic competition at more than 90% of the responding colleges, with an average of five intercollegiate sports at each college. Athletic scholarships are offered by 12%.

The high participation of women revealed by the survey is noticeable throughout teaching, administrative and Trustee positions. Women, at the colleges surveyed, constitute: 56% of all faculty, 42% of all professors, 54% of all presidents, 71% of all academic deans, 22% of all business managers, 33% of all development officers, and 45% of all Board members.

Comparable figures for percentages of teaching women in all institutions (developed by the American Association of University Professors, for academic year 1974-1975) show women as 10.1% of all professors and 22.5% of individuals in all teaching ranks.

The Women's College Coalition is a voluntary association of women's colleges from 22 states and the District of Columbia. Its work is done in cooperation with the Association of American Colleges.

---- See survey breakout on following pages. ----

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Report of Member-College Survey

February 1975

Number of Colleges Responding: 49 (68% return)

General Characteristics of Responding Colleges

Public	2
Private	47
--of 47 private, 27 are independent, 20 church-related	
Highest degrees offered:	
--associate	5
--baccalaureate	33
--masters	8
--doctorate	3
Combined undergraduate enrollment, full time equivalent, of reporting colleges:	44,622
Average undergraduate enrollment (fte)	911
Range of undergraduate enrollment (fte)	188 -- 3435
Primarily residential	40
Primarily non-residential	3
Equal numbers, res. and non-res.	4
Did Not Answer (DNA)	2
Urban	12
Suburban	16
Rural	8
DNA	13

Cross Registration with Other Colleges

43 (88%) of the colleges indicate that students are able to cross-register for courses at another institution. For 32 of these (65% of total) cross-registration is through a consortium of institutions, rather than one other. 6 colleges (12%) indicate no possibility for cross-registration.

Fields of Concentration

Each college was asked to indicate its fastest-growing major. The four most frequently cited:

major	# colleges citing
Business Administration	9
Biology	6
Economics	6
Nursing	6

Colleges were asked for percentages of majors in these areas, for the years 1970-71 and 1975-76:

major	year	# reporting[1]	average %[1]
Economics	70-71	19	2.8
	75-76	22	4.3
Business Administration	70-71	7	4.8
	75-76	14	8.5

Continuing Education

All 49 responding colleges indicate continuing education programs, which currently serve a combined total of 6972 students. 6 colleges currently have only degree candidates in their programs; 7 currently have no degree candidates in the programs.

Affirmative responses were as follows, for ten possible features of a continuing education program:

feature	# responses	%
Financial aid available	35	71
Financial aid available, for part time students	24	49
Reduced tuition for alumnae	11	22
Childcare on campus	22	45
Special Admissions Process	33	67

Note 1: Observe that the number of colleges reporting varies here, depending on the number of colleges offering the major in each year and reporting figures, and also that the percentages are averages of percentages, rather than percentages computed from an average number.

feature	# reporting	%
Special counseling service	35	71
Credit for life experience	16	33
CLEP (College Level Examination Program)	37	76
Weekend College	3	6
Special Housing for C/E students	3	6

Women's Programs

Grant funds: 35 colleges (71%) indicate that they have applied to foundation, government or corporate sources for grant funds to support special projects in such "women's development" areas as career motivation and exploration, life planning, etc. 30 (86%) of those have received such grants. 11 colleges have not applied for such grants.

Women's caucuses: There are women's caucuses at 27 of the colleges (55%). Members include representatives from the student body in 24 cases, from the faculty in 22, and from the staff and administration in 15. In 12 caucuses, there is representation from all three groups.

Special centers: 15 colleges (31%) report a women's center for campus use. 9 of these centers are also open to community women. Research centers on women were reported by 3 colleges.

Women's courses in the curriculum: 47 colleges (96%) have courses on women in the curriculum. 35 of these (71%) show women's courses not offered under a women's studies title, and 24 colleges (49%) have or also have (group overlaps with the 35 above) women's studies courses so-named. A women's studies major is possible at 7 colleges (14%).

Alumnae and Career Services

Career support to undergraduates: The following numbers of reporting colleges

--offer programs to aid students with life planning	34	(67%)
--offer programs to aid students with career motivation/assertiveness	39	(80%)

--involve career-successful alumnae in career exploration sessions with students	39	(80%)
--involve alumnae to help secure job and/or internship placements for current students	37	(76%)
--indicate alumnae directory or file, organized by professional skills and other resource offerings, for the use of both current students and alumnae	18	(37%)

Support to alumnae: Each college was asked to indicate the rough percentage of time spent by its career office staff in aiding alumnae with career plans and decisions. 25 colleges (51%) indicated less than ten percent. 17 (35%) indicated more than ten percent, with 6 (12%) saying that twenty-five or more percent of time went to alumnae.

Percentages of Women in Faculty Ranks, Administrative Roles, and on Boards of Trustees

rank/category	total # reported	total # women	% women
All faculty [2]	4550.5	2528	55.5
Department head	798.5	420.5	52.6
Professor	899.5	378	42.0
Assoc. professor	924	459.5	49.7
Assis. professor	1403	781	55.6
Ins/Lec.	1212	817.5	67.4
President	48	26	54.1
Chief academic officer	48	34	70.8
Chief bus. officer	49	11	22.4
Chief dev. officer	46	15	32.6
Chief P.R. officer	45	28	62.2
Chief student life off.	48	45	93.7
Chairperson of Board	46	8	17.3
Chairperson, Bd. Comm.	287	89	31.0
Board member	1220	545	44.6

Comparative data, for all institutions, is shown at the end of this report.

Note 2: Several colleges noted that the position of department head, or division head, was rotational and not a matter of rank.

Athletic Programs

Requirement: There is an athletic or physical education requirement at 29 colleges (59%). At more than half of those (15), participation beyond the requirement was characterized as "considerable" rather than "modest".

Intercollegiate competition: 45 colleges (92%) have intercollegiate competition, with an average of 5 intercollegiate sports offered at each college. Three (6%) had no competition; 1 did not answer.

Scholarships: 6 colleges (12%) offer athletic scholarships. 42 (86%) do not. 1 did not answer. 8 of those not offering scholarships have considered and rejected the idea; 4 indicate that they might consider it.

Emphasis of program: Only 1 college indicated that the emphasis of the sports program was on competition. 19 (39%) put the emphasis on physical fitness and recreation; 28 (57%) indicated a balanced emphasis of competition and fitness/recreation.

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Comparative data, as available, for percentages of women in teaching, administrative and Board positions

1. Faculty

A survey released by the American Association of University Professors in the summer of 1975, containing '74 - '75 data from 1351 institutions, shows the following percentages of women in various ranks:

Professor	10.1 %
Assoc. prof.	17.3 %
Ass't. prof.	27.9 %
Instructor	48.0 %
Lecturer	41.4 %
All Ranks	22.5 %

(Table 19, AAUP Bulletin, Summer 1975, "Two Steps Backward")

2. Presidents
The Office of Women in Higher Education, American Council on Education, released figures in the fall of 1975 showing 140 female chief executive officers at a total of more than 2500 institutions, or about 5½ % women chief executives.

3. Administrators
There is very little current data. The 1973 Carnegie Commission report "Opportunities for Women in Higher Education," cites a 1969-1970 study done by R.M. Oltman of the American Association of University Women. Oltman found the following percentages of women administrators for the private institutions in a 454-institution study:

Academic Dean	14%
Business Manager	9%
Director of Dev.	3%
Dean of Students	18%

("Campus 1970: Where Do Women Stand? R.M. Oltman, American Association of University Women, 1970)

4. Board Members
According to a spokesperson for the Association of Governing Boards of Colleges and Universities, an AGB study of 282 institutions, conducted in 1973, showed that 17% of responding trustees were female.